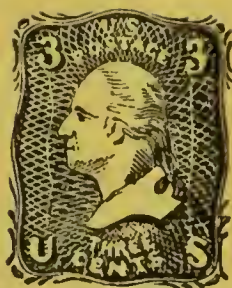


MASON'S
Coin and Stamp
COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

MARCH, 1868.

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MASON'S

COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'

MAGAZINE.

VOL. I.

MARCH, 1868.

No. 12.

HISTORY OF COINS OF AMERICA.

(Including the Colonial and Anglo-American Coinage,) From 1612 to 1868.

Continued.

BY E. M., JR.

1816.—Two varieties: "cracked die" and "perfect die." Issue, 2,820,982.

1817.—Two types: "13 stars and 15 stars." Issue, 3,948,400.

1818.—Large and small dates. Issue, 3,167,000.

1819.—Same as the last. Issue, 2,671,000.

1820.—Ditto. Issue, 4,407,550.

1821.—This cent is seldom found well preserved. Can be termed "scarce."—Copper very soft. Issue, 389,000.

1822.—Slight varieties in lettering, &c. Issue, 2,072,339.

1823.—This date seldom found in a perfect condition—"scarce." Issue, 855,730. There has been a "re-strike" of this cent from the old obverse die, and the reverse die of another cent.

1824.—"Scarce;" no important variation. Issue, 1,262,000.

1825.—Good impressions; hard copper and generally well preserved. Issue 1,461,100. Half cents, 63,000.

1826.—Same as preceding. Issue, 1,517,425. Half cents, 234,000.

1827.—No change. Issue, 2,357,732

1828 — " " Issue, 2,260,624. Half cents, 606,000.

Some of the half cents of this year show an error in the number of stars.—The largest number of this date found exhibit the usual number of stars, (13)

the others but twelve stars. The latter are considered scarce.

1829.—Cents and half cents same as the ordinary issue of the preceding. Of the former there were coined 1,414,500; latter, 487,000.

1830.—Issue, 1,711,500. 1831.—3,359,260. The half cents of the latter year were "patterns," and did not enter into general circulation. There were no half cents issued 1830.

1832.—Issue, 2,362,000. Half cents, 200,000.

1833.—Issue, 2,739,000. Half cents, 154,000.

1834.—Issue, 1,855,100. Half cents, 120,000.

1835.—Issue, 3,878,400. Half cents, 141,000.

1836.—"Cracked" and "perfect die." Issue, 2,111,000. Half cents, "patterns," and but few struck.

1837.—Issue, 5,558,300. No half cents.

1838.—Slight change in form of the head. The "mint mark" is found on most of the reverses of the latter years between the word "one" and the word "cent," &c., consists of a small dot, or period. Issue, 6,370,200.

1839.—Four variations, viz.: three types and one variety. These are the "Booby" head; the "40" head; the "38" head, and a head that differs slightly from either. Issue, 3,128,661.

1840.—The change of head which occurred during the year 1839, became a fixture this year, and was maintained, with very little variation, throughout the copper coinage. Issue, 2,462,700. Half

cents were not issued until 1849; those coined between the years 1839 and 1849 were "pattern pieces," and command, at the present day, a great fictitious value.

1841.—Issue, 1,597,367. 1842.—2,383,390. 1843.—2,428,320. 1844.—2,397,792. 1845.—3,894,804. 1846.—4,120,800.

1847.—6,183,669. 1848.—6,415,799.

1849.—Issue, 4,178,500, Half cents, 39,364. There is a half cent of 1849 with very small date, by some termed a "pattern," and others consider it a variety simply. It is very rare and valuable.

1850.—Issue, 4,426,844. Half cents, 29,812.

1851.—Issue, 9,889,707. Half cents, 147,672.

1852.—Issue, 5,063,094. Patterns.

1853.—Issue, 6,641,131. Half cents, 129,694.

1854.—Issue, 4,236,156. Half cents, 55,358.

1855.—Issue, 1,574,829. Half cents, 56,560.

This year there appeared two varieties, "straight date" and "slanting date," of about equal rarity.

1856.—There is an impression in the public mind, generally, that the series of copper cents closed with the issue of this year. This error is doubtless believed from the fact that the first U. S. nickel cents made their appearance in 1856. Issue of copper cents, 2,690,461. Half cents, 40,430.

1857.—Without any real cause for the fact, the cents of this year command, in many parts of the country, a high fictitious value, while in reality they are simply "scarce." There were coined this year 333,456 cents, and 35,180 half cents.

This date concludes the series of the copper coinage of the United States. It may be well to remark that the appearance of the half cents were similar in obverse and reverse to the cents, and the changes which have occurred in the cents were usually applied to the half cents at about the same period.

THE NUMISMATIST'S IDOL.

BY COPPER.

Far eastward, by the Ganges stream
In heathen lands, so we are told,
Where Reason's lights but dimly gleam,
They worship images of gold.

But we, in wisdom's way advanced,
Whose feet no heathen land have trod,
With hearts and minds and souls entranced,
Adore the mighty Copper God.

His star-encircled face we see
Beam mildly on each rusty cent:
He'll keep our minds from trouble free,
Until the last bright "red" is spent.

Life ended, if we may return,
And Swedenborg avers 'tis proper,
With senses quickened to discern,
We'll still pursue the trade in copper!

PECULIARITIES IN AMERICAN COINS.

No. 1.

There are three markedly different varieties of the United States half cent of the date 1804, viz.: the broken reverse die, the perfect dies with the 4 crossed, and the perfect dies with the 4 not crossed. There are two markedly different varieties of the half cent of 1805, viz.: those with the larger and smaller figure 5. I have noticed upon the last mentioned varieties of each of the above dates of 1804 and 1805 half cent, an arrangement of the wreath which differs from that of any other half cent, and as far as I have been able to learn, there is no similar arrangement among any of the cents from 1793 to 1807 inclusive. It consists in having *no stem* to either end of the half wreaths, which are tied by a ribbon just above the 1-200ths—they being united together and forming one continuous wreath. I have inferred from this discovery, that the 1804 half cents with the 4 not crossed were those last issued during that year, and that the 1805 half cents with the small figure 5 preceded the issue of the other variety, with large 5.

During the year 1799, an entirely dif-

ferent arrangement of the hair was made on the head of the Goddess of Liberty of the cent of that date, from that adopted the three previous years, (including only the "fillet head" of '96). The second curl below the ear was made to turn *backward* instead of *forward*, as previously had been the case. The hair low down on the neck, instead of terminating in *two* parts was now made to divide into *three*; the third portion curling forward anterior to one of the other parts, which terminated in an upward curl, and antero-superior to the other which resulted in a downward roll. I have, however, seen a 1799 cent with the '98 head, and while I judge the variety to be rare, its existence must render uncertain the practice of judging doubtful cents supposed to be '99s by the head only. This head was continued until the year 1808, when the well known changes of both obverse and reverse occurred. All the half cents of the fillet head variety are of the style of the 1799, and subsequent cents on the obverse—unless, indeed, these coins were issued in 1798 or 1799, which, in the present state of our knowledge, does not appear to have been the case.

Prior to the year 1838 the back hair of the goddess of liberty on the cents back to 1816 inclusive, was tied up with two strings or slender bands. During the year a change was made and continued until 1857 inclusive, from two plain strings to two strings of beads. The half cents of the forties and fifties have the bead arrangement also. I do not claim this as a discovery. §

NEW COIN PRICED CATALOGUE.

We have just issued a neat and convenient book of sixteen pages showing the prices paid by dealers for all coins—American and Foreign, Colonial coins included. This book is compiled up to the last of February, 1868, and is the only correct guide for those interested in coins. It will be mailed on receipt of 25 cents

EARLIEST KNOWN COINS OF AMERICA.

It is with pleasure we announce the receipt, from Dr. M. W. Dickeson, the able and indefatigable numismatist, of a series of articles on the aboriginal coins of this country. These papers will be fully illustrated, and will serve to throw additional light on the early coins of America. The first number of these interesting articles will appear in the first number of Vol. II., copiously illustrated.

A RETROSPECTIVE GLANCE.

Twelve months have passed since we formed the resolution to establish a Numismatic and Philatelic Journal, and now that it has become a fixed fact, let us look back and figure up the result of the enterprise. One year of laborious effort, devoted to the dissemination of useful and practical coin and stamp knowledge. *A short time*; and yet we find crowded in that year many pleasing reminiscences. During that period we have received nearly five thousand communications, and answered nearly four-fifths of the number with full and complete explanations in regard to the subjects of which this Journal treats. It is our full and firm belief that this Magazine has benefited the community at large, enlisted a great many persons in the cause for which we are battling, and given the coin trade an impetus it has not known, at any time, previous to the commencement of this Journal. We now send the Magazine to every part of the civilized world, and have the pleasure of announcing the gratifying fact, that on our subscription book are names of those noted in the councils of the nation; others whose names are familiar for their efforts to advance the arts and sciences, while prominent throughout stand the names of mechanics and laboring men—those for whom we labor most cheerfully and contentedly. Many thanks for the kind patronage received and assistance

rendered during the publication of this, our first volume. We hope to improve in the quality and quantity of matter, as we grow older and stronger. Our special thanks are due the Numismatic Associations of New York, Boston, San Francisco and Montreal; also, to the Mercantile Libraries of the principal cities of the United States.

PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

A large sale of coins will take place in this city next April or May.

The copper series is not very fine or valuable, but the silver proofs and uncirculated pieces of the silver coinage of U. S. are very choice and desirable. Catalogues will be forwarded our subscribers on receipt of two 2-cent stamps. Bids will be received at this office, and a commission of 10 per cent. charged on purchases.

NEWLY DISCOVERED VARIETIES IN AMERICAN COINAGE.

From time to time we shall devote a small portion of our pages to the variations of our country's coins not heretofore mentioned in numismatic works.

We have inserted in the present number of our Journal an article upon this subject from a devoted student of numismatology, and shall take pleasure in publishing any new discovery in this line which may be contributed by our readers. Collectors of coins having any U.S. or Colonial pieces with peculiar and distinct variations from well known types and varieties, will oblige us by an article upon the subject.

We have an impression or rubbing of a 1798 U. S. cent, from a Salem, Mass. subscriber, which bears pretty strong evidence of having been struck over a 1797, the earliest instance on record of the "over strike" in the series of U.S. cents. The same "overstrike" occurs on some of the silver dollars of 1798. We have seen an undoubted 1799 cent which pre-

sented very plainly under the last 9th figure 8, another evidence of an "over strike," or the use of the same dies for two different years.

There has been recently discovered a 1794 cent with the exact head of the 1793 liberty cap cent. This and the 1799 over 1798, together with the impression of 1798 over 1797 can be seen, by persons interested, at this office.

There has been lately exhibited to us a PINE TREE shilling, 1652, with the limbs or outer branches of tree connected with a web, forming a sort of tree foil; another with a hollow trunk, widening at foot of tree and running up to a point. We shall continue this subject in future numbers of the Magazine.

U. S. PROOF SETS OF 1868.

We learn that the proof coins for the present year are now ready, any of our patrons wishing the 1868 set—silver dollar to one cent piece, (9 pieces)—can remit four dollars and fifty cents in greenbacks to us, and have the pleasure of securing a set from first impressions of the "master dies."

NEW STAMP ISSUES.

New Granada has emitted a 5 and 10 peso stamp; or, we may say, five and ten dollar stamps; for their value, used or unused, represents these rather extravagant figures for a present issue of small postage stamps. "Few and far between" will be the letters posted in that expensive country.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Three new stamps have made their appearance from this colony, viz.:

8 cents,	.	.	orange.
12 "	.	.	blue.
24 "	.	.	green.

ST. HELENA.

Three new issues from this island, viz.:

Two pence,	.	light yellow.
Three pence,	.	dark purple.
Five shillings,	.	orange.

MEXICO.

Two additional stamps, head of Hidalgo.

Half real, . . . greenish blue.

One real, . . . blue.

Each of the above are on light blue paper.

HOLLAND.

Two stamps recently issued. 5 cent blue and 10 cent carmine. The 1 cent stamp is under consideration and will be shortly emitted.

BOLIVIA.

Has a 50 cent orange, similar in design to the 5 cent green.

PERFORATED U. S. POSTAGE STAMPS.

Most of our readers have, no doubt, observed the recent perforations on the two and three cent adhesive postage stamps of present issue, and wondered whether the "improvement" (?) was intended as a specimen of cancellation marks, or got up with a view of placing our cherished heroes, Washington and Jackson, behind the "prison bars."—Seriously, this last effort of our government to improve the adhesive stamps, is a lamentable failure. It is now difficult to determine the *used* stamps from the *unused*, as the checkered marks on the centre of the stamp destroys, in a measure, the face of the stamp, and renders it extremely difficult to distinguish the government mark from the cancelling marks of some of the local post offices. The very object the P. O. Department wished to defeat, by the introduction of the present unsightly stamps, viz. : the repeated use of the same stamp, or "double duty with single cost," as a friend terms it, has been advanced, and our wise friends of the General P. O. Department must try again. Were our stamps printed on the gummed side of transparent paper, there would be no necessity for detective measures to defeat reguery.

CORRESPONDENCE.

February 6th, 1868.

Gentlemen : I have in my possession a large number of Indian arrows in a good state, and a number that are broken and otherwise marred ; also, two stone hatchets and one pestal, the latter is about one foot in length. These relics have been picked up at different times on the farm on which I now reside. Please inform me what are their market value as I wish to dispose of them.

Yours, &c , F. B.
Johnsville, Dutchess Co., N. Y.

[There is no fixed price for the ordinary Indian relics, but we can find a market for them if you will put them at a reasonable figure.]

Granville, N. Y., Feb. 1st, 1868.

Gentlemen : Will you please inform me what coins I describe below :

Copper—head and bust above the word, Warwickshire ; reverse, a man seated with hammer raised in right hand, in the act of striking a bar of iron ; ship in back ground ; above man, "half penny," and below date 1792 ; on edge, payable in Anglesey, London or Liverpool.

Copper—man's head with hood drawn over it ; eyes, nose and whiskers discernable ; around head a wreath ; on reverse "Anglesey half penny, 1791 ;" centre of reverse worn, can see nothing ; edge "payable in London or Anglesey."

Next copper—London and Middlesex ; in centre British coat of arms ; on obverse "George, Prince of Wales, half-penny," with face and bust ; on edge payable at London or Dublin.

Yours, C. A. BUCKLEY.

[Very common tokens of England, issued during the scarcity of change, 1790 and '93 by tradesmen. We have seen a very beautiful collection of these tokens, numbering 600 different pieces, now the property of Maj. Nichols of Springfield, Mass. Not rare, or valuable. Ed.]

New London, Feb. 1st, 1868.

Gents: I have received eleven numbers of your Coin and Stamp Collector's Magazine, which I ordered some days ago. I like it and shall enclose \$1.50 for the second volume. I have been a collector of coins for many years, but most of my collections are copper coins of the American Colonies, European coins, and U. S. cents. I have them in good condition, all but 1793, 1799 and 1804; plenty of most other dates. I have an English copper coin of 1690. Reign of William and Ann; a Barbadoes penny 1788, a negro with crown on one side and a pineapple on the other. Massachusetts coin cents, a half cent; also, the U. S. Constellation, one Spanish mill dollar, a fine piece uncirculated 1794, a half dollar '58, also of '59, besides quarters, dimes, half dimes, and the small 3 cent pieces of the first coinage. Any quantity of cards, medals, etc. The autograph of Washington and Jefferson together; brass buttons from a wedding coat of 1781, a piece of wood of the coffin of Col. Wm. Ledyard, slain at Fort Griswold, 1781, Sept. 6th; also, one of his teeth.

I should like to exchange some of my duplicates for pennies of 1793, 1799, 1804, etc. I cannot tell of all the odd coins I have, but I have a good lot.

Please give value.

Yours truly,

D. L.

N. B.—If you know of any one who would exchange for those I have named, let me know.

[You certainly show a commendable spirit in coin collecting, and a spread eagle disposition to collect a little of every thing else, from a wedding button to a decayed tooth. Your Barbadoes penny is a rare piece, and is worth about \$2 if fine. 1794 Spanish dollar worth old silver rates, if strictly uncirculated would bring more; Washington's autograph worth \$3 to \$5; wedding button worth—*preserving*. The piece of coffin you

have might be used for kindling wood, as such relics seldom bear any tangible evidence of authenticity, and are generally valueless. Your "Wm. and Ann" is doubtless a "Wm. and Mary" half penny or farthing, worth 50 cents.

If you conclude to trade with us don't send that *tooth*—there's no *sense* in that—but for any good coins, or autographs you possess, we will accommodate you with 1793, '99 and 1804 cents. Ed.]

Malone, N. Y., Jan. 6, 1868.

Gents: The coin business is looking up with me. I find something new, or hear of something which I have to *get*, every few days. I know if I had the time to devote, I could get some good specimens, even "here, in the woods." I am now on the track of an old "miser" who has been hoarding gold and silver for "fifty years." His boy says he has got a nail keg full of coins. I shall get a peep at them soon.

I had an extra number of the Magazine and gave it to a Canada collector. Hope you have got his subscription by this time. I am anxious to see the February number. Yours, respectfully,

A. R. F.

Woburn, Mass., Feb. 6th, 1868.

Mason & Wells. Gents: You lately made a mistake about that Maximilian dollar, in my favor, and as I am not the one to take advantage, I here return it to you. I simply mean this, that I sent to you for one of them, and you very kindly sent me two.

Enclosed, also, please find fifty cents for my balance of subscription for second volume.

I am well satisfied with the dollar, and think, too, that I am lucky to possess one, for it is my opinion that five years will add quite a premium to them.

Yours, very truly,

MARCELLUS LITTLEFIELD.

[We print your letter as a sample of honesty worthy all praise. Ed.]

Washington, D. C., Jan. 19, 1868.

Sirs: You have given me the directions how to clean old copper. You say put them in sweet oil, and one of your correspondents says coal oil. I have tried both and it does not have any effect on an old copper that has been laying a good while, for the dirt and grease becomes case hardened. I have let them stand in oil for four weeks, and it has no effect on them, and I do not know what to do with them. I have some very old ones, and if I could get them clean, I would be willing to pay well to know the process. Oil will do to soften the grease and dirt, if not on too long, but on an old, bad, dirty copper it won't do any good. I think it helps to turn them green. I want you to tell me how you do with those bad ones. I will be in Philadelphia some time next summer, on my way home to Vermont, and shall have all my coins to show you, and will give you a good visit, and sell all to you, if we can agree on a price.

Yours, very respectfully,

G. N. H.,

No. 496 Ninth St., Washington, D. C.

[You should not expect to clean corroded coins with oil; the latter serves only to loosen the dirt. After coins have been a few days in oil, wash them off with warm water and soap, then apply a soft brush. ED.]

Woburn, Mass., Jan. 31, 1868.

Mason & Wells. Gents: Enclosed please find "stamps" enough to furnish me with a Maximilian dollar, and the Coin and Stamp Collector's Magazine for another year. As long as I have money enough to spare, you may set me down for a subscriber, as long as it is published. If it is necessary that I should pay more, that the Magazine may be enlarged, call on me, and I will forward. Indian head, 1858, received O. K.

Yours, with respect,

M. LITTLEFIELD.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"HIBERNIA."—There are several dates and varieties of the *Voce Populi* coin.—We have seen one dated 1760, with what might be termed a negro head; and one of 1760 with a head resembling the obverse of the Vermont cents, by many called "George the Third head."

S. O. R., PHILA.—We have but few of the very rare pieces of Continental paper money. As to the redemption of this currency, we hope you may live to see it! An effort was made, in Congress in 1818, to accomplish something, but it failed, as will all future efforts. You had better sell the whole lot to those who cherish mementos of the past. The first issue of Continental money was made in 1775. The depreciation began in three years afterwards and went on as follows: March, 1778, \$1 in coin was worth \$1 75 in paper. September, 1778, \$1 in coin was worth \$4 in paper. September, 1779 \$1 in coin was worth \$19 in paper.—March, 1780, \$1 in coin was worth \$100 in paper. May, 1781, \$1 in coin was worth \$500 in paper. Not long after these days, the holder of Government money paid twenty thousand dollars for a ham, and ten thousand dollars for a pound of tea.

H. C. R.—Get the new 1868 Coin Priced Catalogue; 16 pages, just issued from our office. It is reliable, and a splendid guide for beginners. Will mail it to you for 25 cents. It shows the prices we pay for all coins.

L. T., WOBURN.—Reminiscees crowded out. Shall publish balance of history, commencing with nickel of '56, in next volume.

M. L., WOBURN, Mass.—You have our thanks for returning the Maximilian dollar. We were not aware of sending you two.

T. S. C., NEW HAVEN.—We have good 1789 Mott tokens or store cards for \$1.00, and very fine for \$1.50. The earliest

American business card is the 1757 Elton's N. Y. token. It has a rude representation on obverse of an animal reclining in the woods; surrounding this an imperfect band; around the whole, the legend, "Skins bought at Elton's, 1757." Reverse, Indians trading skins in front of a tent, or hut. Legend, "The Red Men come to Elton's Daily." The piece is of copper, size about 21.

S. O. RODMAN, CHICAGO.—We will allow you a fair commission on each subscriber, if you make a club. 50 per cent. is out of the question. How different from your proposition is the following, clipped from a letter from our regular Troy correspondent, who has gathered at least forty subscribers.

"In conclusion, I would say, that I neither *ask* nor *expect* any compensation for soliciting subscribers for your Magazine. The satisfaction of knowing that I am aiding in disseminating useful knowledge to the numerous votaries of numismatology, is reward enough for me."

Yours, &c., G. M. PAYFER.

P. R., TAUNTON.—The three cent silver piece of 1851, marked with letter O on reverse, signifies it is from the New Orleans mint. It is scarce, and commands fifty cents when uncirculated. We have a few duplicates, but will pay 25 cts. each for yours.

J. A. B., MILTON.—References are splendid, but we prefer to do cash business. We can send our coins to hundreds on approval, and deprive our daily visitors of rare coins. We will always refund the money if coins do not suit the purchaser, when coins are returned within a reasonable time.

A. S. F., COLUMBUS, O.—Let us have that article, "Advice to Young Collectors." We feel assured, from your well known ability to handle numismatology, that the article in question will be a valuable one.

J. B. C., PROVIDENCE.—We have an ample supply of U. S. stamps—old and present issue.

S. L. MORRISON, EXETER, N. H.—The "John Hancock" letter you sent us was dated "1796." Unfortunately for your pocket John Hancock died 1793, and could not have written the letter. Returned.

H. C. E., CINCINNATI.—Shall use the article in a condensed form. Thank you.

R. P. & Son, DEERSVILLE, O.—Cannot use the stamps.

The AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY, for January, has been received, one month behind time, for which delay F. Trifet, Publisher, Boston, Mass., offers an apologetical editorial. This number of the *Mercury* is the *fourth* issued, and is an improvement on its predecessors. There is no reason why the *Mercury* should not hold a *big hand* in Boston, for it has all the *trumps*. Success to it.

A Stamp and Coin Periodical has appeared in Meriden, Conn. The first, or January number, (quarto) has four pages filled with interesting matter. It is published by the NATIONAL STAMP COMPANY.

THE STAMP BUYER, Vol. 1, No. 1, has been received. It is a lively little quarto and comes out with the following startling announcement:

"Free! Free! Free! Ho! ye Stamp Collectors. THE STAMP BUYER—a journal devoted to the interests of collectors sent free! monthly. Address American Stamp Co., Middletown, Conn."

MASON'S COIN AND S. C. MAGAZINE.—The above is the title of a spicy little Magazine published monthly by Mason, & Wells, Philadelphia. It is devoted to the subject of coins and stamps, old and new, and generally matters connected with the currency of this and oth-

er countries, and of present and past years.

Messrs. Marshall & Mott have received a number of subscriptions to the magazine which has at least the merit of being *independent*.

We are not disposed to *kick* such an enterprising member of the family of Journals, although it professes not to care which it receives—a puff or a kick—as it thinks either will serve to give it a start. —*Oswego (N.Y.) Com. Adv'r and Times*, January 29.

[The above clever notice is refreshing to a care-worn numismatic editor who is striving energetically to cultivate a taste for scientific pursuits. If the Editor of above journal ever gets astray and wanders in this latitude, we can accommodate him with an extra bed, a spare room and an aromatic havana—"Quaker dinner" thrown in. Ed.]

Malone, N. Y., Feb., 18, 1868.

Gents: I send you to day my extra April No. of the magazine, if you can make any use of it you are welcome to it

I received the 1856 and 59 cents—was much pleased with the 1859, would like the 1858 as soon as you have one on hand and when you get one please put it aside and notify me.

I guess I can tell where the one dollar went to that I sent for the 1868 coins. Our Mail Agent on this R. R. was arrested while in the act of opening a letter, yesterday, and I learn there has been other letters than mine opened. A Detective has been on his track for two weeks. So that little difficulty is not as likely to occur again.

Yours, respectfully, A. R.

[Many thanks for Magazine you forwarded. We print your letter to exhibit to our patrons the "little difficulty" which oftentimes prevents the receipt of letters. We have had but three complaints of non-receipt of goods ordered, and one correspondent's letter and money was lost by the recent burning of a mail car in Indiana; the other two letters were appropriated by those in charge of the mails. As a general thing the mails are fully as safe as any other mode of conveyance. Ed.]

END OF FIRST VOLUME.

The present number concludes the first volume of the Coin and Stamp Collector's Magazine, and affords a fitting opportunity to briefly review the past history of our yearling. We need not say that it has been a laborious and profitless task to establish a work of this kind, for it is a patent fact to most of our readers; but we can truly say that it was a "labor of love," and a desire to strengthen and increase the facilities for a practical comprehension of the twin sciences—Numismatology and Philately—that led and sustained us in the field. It has been the aim of the publishers to give brief, practical, sensible items concerning the subjects monthly served up for the reader's edification and instruction; and, as a general rule, to avoid angry discussions and lengthy, mystical, elaborate communications, which so clog up and impede the success of any journal whose foundation for future prosperity depends upon the mass, the bone and sinew, the solid men of the country. Why should not novices—beginners—have a say in matters which attract their attention? We have endeavored to present, from month to month, such articles as would suit all classes, and it is a gratifying fact that we have awakened an interest in science which will produce good fruit. To our correspondents and contributors we beg to offer sincere thanks, and to express the hope that one and all will sail with us on the next voyage. We promise to add to the number of pages and illustrations just as rapidly as subscriptions are received. It is a matter of regret to us that we are compelled to raise the subscription price a trifle for the next volume, but we hope to remunerate the reader for the outlay.

NEW COIN and STAMP JOURNAL.

The fourth number of the AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY, a monthly, devoted to coins (?) and stamps, is before us, and, judging from external appearances, we

should predict success for the *Mercury* as far as stamps are concerned, but the coin department is rather limited in this issue. We hope to be able to congratulate our contemporary on a successful career.

NEW TERMS.

The following terms have been adopted for the 2nd volume of Coin and Stamp Collector's Magazine, commencing with the next number, viz.:

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